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Allen Dulles

early American practitioners of espionage on a large scale.

In the years of its innocence and isolation America looked down on the craft as best suited to the intrigues of contentious European powers. U.S entry into World War I made the government acutely aware of the need of a capable intelligence service, but it was not until World War II's Office of Strategic Services was developed that the country went seriously into a sustained espionage program.

Allen Dulles served in that cloak-and-dagger operation and in 1953 was appointed to head the Central Intelligence Agency. We had entered the spy business with a bang.

Dulles played a controversial role in the Bay of Pigs invasion and the U-2 plane incident. His management of the CIA awaits history's appraisal but that won't come until CIA files of the period are de-classified, many, many years from now — is ever.

But one verdict already is in: Allen Dulles was a conscientious American with a strong sense of duty and the will to perform it.